

# Materialize + dbt: Streaming for the modern data stack

Jessica Laughlin

Materialize

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**It's the modern data  
stack's world,  
we just live in it.**



First, some definitions

data stack → collection of all your  
data tools

## First, some definitions

data stack → collection of all your data tools

modern data stack → collection of all your data tools, in the cloud

# What's so good about the modern data stack?

- More powerful
- Less expensive

# What's so good about the modern data stack?

- More powerful
- Less expensive
- **SQL interface**

**A small detour:  
interfaces are important.**







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What's wrong with the modern data stack?

The modern data stack is batch-based because streaming tools haven't exposed that same SQL interface.

“Batch is good enough.”



**pedram.sql**

@pedram\_navid



Replying to [@sarahcat21](#)

streams seem to me like one of those beautiful in principle and awful in practice things because of how hard it is to get right. i just can't imagine a 30-50 person company with one or two data hires running off streams but very easy to do off tables.

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**Say hello to Materialize.**







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Local Files





# Timely Dataflow and Differential Dataflow

Timely Dataflow → “a low-latency cyclic dataflow computational model, introduced in the paper Naiad: a timely dataflow system”

# Timely Dataflow and Differential Dataflow

Timely Dataflow



“a low-latency cyclic dataflow computational model, introduced in the paper Naiad: a timely dataflow system”

Differential Dataflow



“a computational framework built on top of timely dataflow intended for efficiently performing computations on large amounts of data and *maintaining* the computations as the data change”



**You can build correct,  
real-time applications and  
analytics, just using  
SQL + Materialize.**



**Materialize's superpower:  
incrementally-maintained  
materialized views.**



# Materialized views, a primer

**What's a materialized view?**

A database object that contains the result of a query.

**Why would I use one?**

Each time you query your database you will incur a cost. Materialized views cache your results, limiting your costs and keeping your results “fresh enough.”

**What's the downside?**

Materialized views get stale, and refreshing them can be slow and expensive.

# Incrementally-maintained materialized views

## **What's the same?**

A database object that contains the result of a query.

## **What's different?**

These materialized views update their results *incrementally* as the underlying data changes. This means they are never stale, and will always return correct, up-to-date results. Even better, this means they will only perform the necessary work.





<b>Customer</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Jean	Some bread	4
Marie	Most bread	7
Pierre	Bread	5
		= 16

Customer	Item	Amount
Jean	Some bread	4
Marie	Most bread	7
Pierre	Bread	5
Louise	Tiny bread	3
		= 16

How would you calculate the updated sum?

$4 + 7 + 5 + 3$  or  $16 + 3$ ?

Customer	Item	Amount
Jean	Some bread	4
Marie	Most bread	7
Pierre	Bread	5
Louise	Tiny bread	3
		= <del>16</del> + 3 = 19

How would you calculate the updated sum?

$$4 + 7 + 5 + 3 \text{ or } \mathbf{16} + \mathbf{3}?$$



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Query

Push / Stream



# Materialize + dbt



**Because Materialize speaks SQL, you can transform your data in real-time using Materialize + dbt.**





# What's the same?

Model  
definitions



Because Materialize speaks PostgreSQL, you can define your models like you would with any other data warehouse.

dbt commands\*



Use all of the same, familiar dbt commands over streams: dbt run, dbt test, dbt docs, and more.

Documentation,  
lineage



Document your streaming data and get handy lineage information, as usual.

# What's different?

Materialization types



You'll want to use our custom  
“**materializedview**” materialization to  
create an incrementally-maintained  
materialized view.

# What's different

Materialization types



You'll want to use our custom **"materializedview"** materialization to create an incrementally-maintained materialized view.

How some dbt commands are used



Let's dig in, you're going to be pleasantly surprised!

**“dbt run” your models  
once and never again.**





dbt test works on streaming data, too!

Run dbt test on your materialized views to catch data quality issues in real time.

# dbt test + alert on streaming data #6

jwills started this conversation in **Show and tell**



**jwills** 14 days ago

edited ▾ ⋮

The repo for my hackday exercise is here: <https://github.com/jwills/mz-hack-day-2022>

Mostly copy-pasting from the Slack message where I described what I wanted to do:

"So one of the first things we do in our daily dbt run for our DWH at WeaveGrid is the standard staging work of renaming columns, cleaning up types, etc. followed by a bunch of sanity check dbt tests on that lightly processed staging data to ensure that there aren't any red flags in there that would mess up downstream table materializations. In my dream world, I would like to move that staging/testing work upstream- out of Snowflake and into dbt+materialize- so that I could run those tests "continuously" (read: with a cron job that executed like every 15 minutes-to-an-hour) to catch upstream data quality issues earlier, during business hours, and not after midnight UTC when a \*&!^?# data quality issue is going to ruin my evening.



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**Jessica Laughlin** @JLDLaughlin · Mar 15



you would be able to if the streaming system was hosted and providing the right interface - SQL! totally doable with a single dev.



**pedram.sql**



@pedram\_navid

Replying to @JLDLaughlin and @sarahcat21

one day i will try this and if you live up to your promise i don't know what i will do but it'll be something

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# Thank you!

**Questions?** Come to our booth or find me at  
@JLDLaughlin or  
jessica@materialize.com

**We're hiring!** [jobs@materialize.com](mailto:jobs@materialize.com)

